

MONTANA SCHOOLS

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DOLORES COLLINS
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LEGISLATIVE NEWS . . . This supplement, compiled as of February 6, refers to the status of education bills according to information then available; status may change daily . . . consult your daily newspaper or contact the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for later news on any measure of special interest to you.

SCHOOL FINANCE AND BUDGETING

- SB 87 (Cotton, James, Lehrkind, Mathers, Brownfield, Keenan, 59-1110) Would allow an increase of the school district general fund budget, above the maximum provided by the Foundation Program schedule, equal to the school district's employer Social Security contribution. Passed Senate; in House Education Committee.
- SB 88 (Cotton, Gilfeather, Lehrkind, Thiessen, Mathers, Brownfield, James. 75-1713.1, 75-4518.1) Would provide for 15% increase of elementary Foundation Program rates and 18% increase of high school Foundation Program rates. In Senate Education Committee.
- SB 132 (Dzivi, Shugrue, Cotton, Reber, Mitchell. 75-2005, 75-3612) Would permit school districts operating kindergartens to include 5 year old pupils in ANB. Foundation Program for kindergarten program would be 50% of statutory rate for elementary pupils. In Senate Education Committee.
- SB 229 (Selstad, Mathers. 75-3706, 75-4516.1) Would have provided for county levy for state deficiency of equalization funds in year subsequent to the year of funding deficiency. Killed in Senate Education Committee.
- SB 245 (Moritz, Northey, Deschamps, Folsom, Mathers, Lyon, Broeder, Bennett, James, Mackay, Brownfield. A new act) Would provide a 25% increase of the Foundation Program amount applicable to grade 7 - 8 ANB in school districts satisfying accreditation standards for accredited junior high schools. In Senate Education Committee.
- SB 248 (Broeder, Siderius. 16-2050, 75-3806) Would have provided that interest earned from investment of school district bond proceeds may be credited to debt service fund or special fund for furnishing and equipping school buildings. Killed in Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.
- SB 267 (Keenan, Shugrue, Deschamps, Klindt. 75-5101) Would permit Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction to request and accept federal funds designated for nonpublic or private schools. In Senate Constitution, Elections, and Federal Relations Committee.
- SB 279 (McKeon. 16-2050) Would require interest on sale of bonds accrued in the period of time between the date of issue and the time of purchase to be credited to the debt service fund or to the building fund. Passed Senate; in House State Administration Committee.

- SB 317 (Reber and several others. 68-1307) Would increase employer's contribution to the public employees' retirement system to 4.25% from 3.5%. In Senate State Administration Committee.
- HB 13 See Retirement Systems.
- HB 44 (Kvaalen, Shively, Lund, Warfield, Marks, Forester, Murphy, Harrison, Jordan, Nyquist. 75-1713.1, 75-4518.1) Would provide for increases ranging from 8.9% to 23.9% in the Foundation Program rates for schools of various sizes. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 136 (Lucas, Hims1, Murphy, Feisthamel, Kvaalen, Schoonover, Harlow, Jordan, Spahr. 75-4425) Would revise method of computing community college ANB and allow community college to impose one mill levy for adult education. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 192 (Stimatz, Stratton, Mehrens, P. Williams, Jordan, Jurcich, Teeple, Glennen, and
HB 193 Nugent, Staigmiller, Fleming, Lee, Healy, Lombardi, Fasbender, Prevost. New acts) Would have provided for the purchase of secular educational services, textbook loaning to nonpublic school children, and provision of transportation for pupils attending nonpublic schools by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Killed in House Judiciary Committee.
- HB 194 (Kvaalen, Lund, Lucas, Harlow, Murphy, Spahr) Appropriation of money from state general fund for support of state obligation for state equalization aid under the Foundation Program and the state obligation for school transportation aid for the 1969-71 biennium. Passed House; in Senate Finance and Claims Committee.
- HB 230 (Warfield. 16-2050) Would allow interest earned on investment of school bond proceeds to be deposited in the debt service fund or the building fund. In House State Administration Committee.
- HB 240 (Hims1, Jordan, Feisthamel, Rygg, Harlow, Lundgren, Murphy, Zimmer. 75-4426) Would provide authority for community college district to borrow monies from the U. S. Government for building construction. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 318 See Miscellaneous (Driver Education).
- HB 356 See Elections and Voting.
- HB 406 (Shively, Watt. A new act) Would authorize a reserve for public employees' retirement system; reserve not to exceed 35% of budgeted amount. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 448 (Bardanouve. A new act) Would provide basis for financing and financial administration of Interlocal Co-operative Agreements involving school districts. In House Education Committee.
- HB 479 (Melcher. 75-3616) Would have provided for annual distribution of undistributed state equalization aid to reduce basic county levy for high schools. Killed in House Education Committee.
- HB 540 (Fasbender, Gunderson, Hall, Christiansen. A new act) Would provide voluntary consolidation and annexation incentive plan for school districts. A bonus payment of \$100 per eligible pupil for three consecutive years and 66-2/3% of the on-schedule transportation; bonus payment would be paid to the enlarged district. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.

SCHOOL FINANCE AND BUDGETING -- continued

HJR 15 (Kvaalen, Payne, Campbell, Warden) A resolution urging the U. S. Congress to subsidize education at the post-high school level. In House Education Committee.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

SB 133 (Brownfield, Rosell, Hafferman, Vainio. 75-4301) Would require that the taxable valuation of a school district designated for area vocational-technical school purposes must be at least \$45,000,000. In Senate Education Committee.

SB 287 See State Education Administration and Services.

HB 28 (Harlow, Baeth, Gunderson, Lund, B. Williams) An act to submit an annual two mill property tax levy to the electorate of Montana for partial vocation education financing during the period of July 1, 1971 to June 30, 1981. In House Ways and Means Committee.

HB 481 (Harlow, Gunderson, Knudsen, Cranston, Watt, Staigmiller, Gilligan, Wayrynen, Speare, Mather, Kendall, Christiansen. A new act) Would provide financial support, coordination, and overall state growth and development of post-secondary vocational-technical education. In House Education Committee.

HB 482 (Harlow, Gunderson, Knudsen, Cranston, Watt, Staigmiller, Gilligan, Wayrynen, Speare, Mather, Kendall, Christiansen. 75-4246) Would provide for apportionment of present state and federal funds and any state and federal funds provided in the future. In House Education Committee.

HB 483 See State Education Administration and Services.

HB 484 (Harlow, Gunderson, Knudsen, Cranston, Watt, Staigmiller, Gilligan, Wayrynen, Speare, Mather, Kendall, Christiansen. 75-4241) Would provide for state acceptance of federal funds under new federal acts and any future federal acts. In House Education Committee.

HB 485 (Harlow, Gunderson, Knudsen, Cranston, Watt, Staigmiller, Gilligan, Wayrynen, Speare, Mather, Kendall, Christiansen. 75-4243) Would repeal provision for state vocational education advisory committee since federal legislation requires appointment of a separate advisory committee. In House Education Committee.

HB 511 (Cranston, Harlow. A new act) Would authorize State Board for Vocational Education to lease or transfer buildings and/or lands to school districts to be used for post-secondary vocational-technical education. In House Education Committee.

HB 535 (Cranston, Harlow. A new act) Would authorize the transfer of title from the state to the school district for buildings and/or lands used for post-secondary vocational-technical education purposes. In House Education Committee.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TRUSTEES

SB 72 (Klindt, Brownfield, Keenan, Hafferman, McGowan, Cotton, Mathers. A new act) Would have provided for twelve month, four quarter school year for junior and senior high schools. Killed in Senate Education Committee.

- SB 321 and SB 322 (Cotton. 75-1813, 75-1813.1) Would delay effective date of any elementary school district consolidation or annexation involving a unified district (coterminous elementary and high school districts) until high school district boundaries have been changed to include the added elementary school district territory. In Senate Committee of the Whole.
- HB 134 (Schoonover, Knudsen, Clemow, Kendall, Fleming. 75-4708) Would allow school district board of trustees to employ additional legal counsel with the consent of the county attorney. Passed House; in Senate Judiciary Committee.
- HB 397 (Lund by request. 59-519) Would have allowed school district board of trustees to employ relatives except as superintendent or principal. Killed in House Education Committee.
- HB 398 (Warfield, Gunderson, Fasbender. 75-1813) Would provide optional basis for school district consolidation or annexation with or without the assumption of bonded indebtedness. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 540 See School Finance and Budgeting.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

- SB 85 (Cotton, Lehrkind, Lynch, Hafferman, Flynn. 75-391) In school bond elections, when between 30% and 40% of the electors vote, would provide for the issue to be approved if 60% of the votes cast are in favor of it. Passed Senate; in House Education Committee.
- SB 86 (Cotton, Lehrkind, Lynch, Hafferman, Rehberg. 75-1603) Would provide for annual school district election on the first Tuesday of April. In Senate Education Committee.
- HB 235 (Newby, Swan, Hall, Watt. 75-3908, 75-3914) Would have deleted 40% of qualified electors' participation in bond elections and provided for a one election per year limitation. Killed in House Research and Resources Committee.
- HB 356 (Warfield, Christiansen. 75-3801) Would delete the voter registration requirement for elementary school district special levy elections. Passed House; in Senate Constitution, Elections and Federal Relations Committee.

TRANSPORTATION AND TUITION

- SB 201 (Anderson, Lyon. 75-1406, 75-5003) Would provide tuition payment for out-of-state attendance of special education pupils. In Senate Education Committee.
- SB 289 (Cotton. 75-3412) Would prohibit county transportation committee approval of a bus route outside of district of operation unless it is incidental to the service provided for the operating district's students. In Senate Education Committee.
- SB 290 (Cotton. 75-3407) Would provide parents of elementary transportation pupils with the alternative of waiving an over-one-hour bus ride or the receipt of some other form of transportation. In Senate Education Committee.
- SB 311 (Bollinger, Goodheart, James. 75-3413) Would provide that state transportation reimbursements shall not be withheld for more than thirty days. In Senate Committee of the Whole.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- SB 110 (Brownfield, Mathers, Cotton. A new act) Would limit community colleges to a two year post-high school program. (Indefinitely postponed in Senate.)
- HB 120 (Hims1, Lucas, Shively, Jordan, P. Williams, Murphy. 75-4423) Would expand community college district course of instruction to include academic, occupational and adult education with State Board of Education approval. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 136 See School Finance and Budgeting.

TEACHERS' AND RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

- SB 48 (Klindt, James, Siderius, Bennett, Moore, Cochrane, Mathers, Selstad. A new act) Would provide a nine member teacher certification commission to recommend certification of teachers according to classroom performance and other standards. In Senate Education Committee.
- HB 3 See State Education Administration and Services.
- HB 12 (Shively, Watt, Lund. 75-2707) Would increase retirement benefits of teachers who have retired since September 1, 1937 and prior to June 30, 1967 by 2% per year of retirement or to \$1,500.00 per annum whichever is greater. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 13 (Shively, Watt, Lund. 75-2709) Would increase employer contribution to Teachers' Retirement System from 3.75% to 4½% until July 1, 1979 when it would be 4%. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 350 (P. Williams. A new act) Would provide for Montana's membership in the Interstate Compact for teacher certification which allows individual states to contract reciprocal teacher certification agreements. Passed House; in Senate Education Committee.
- HB 407 (P. Williams, Mehrens, Jurcich, Staigmiller, Zimmer, Christiansen. A new act) Would provide educational leaves of absence and reemployment for employees of school districts. In House Education Committee.

STATE EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES

- SB 119 (Klindt, Keenan, Folsom, Bertsche, Thiessen. 16-4802) Would have established a division of recreation and physical education in the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop and coordinate such programs of school districts, cities and towns, and counties. Killed in Senate Committee of the Whole.
- SB 154 (Bennett, Folsom, Cotton, Dzivi, Turnage, DeWolfe, Boylan, Hazelbaker, Lynch, Northey. A new act) Would create a division of school activities in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to control and supervise all interscholastic contests and programs. In Senate Committee of the Whole.
- SB 287 (Brownfield, James, Rosell. A new act) Would create position of Coordinator of Vocational Education in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. In Senate Education Committee.
- HB 3 (Ulmer, Lund, Shively. 75-2708) Would authorize the Teachers' Retirement Board to invest teachers' retirement funds in equities of banks, insurance companies, and companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Passed House; in Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.

HB 242 (Schoonover, Teeple, Johnston, Campbell) Would appropriate money for a conservation education supervisor in the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office as provided in Section 75-2012. In House Appropriations Committee.

HB 483 (Harlow, Gunderson, Knudsen, Cranston, Christiansen, Wayrynen, Speare, Mather, Kendall, Staigmiller, Gilligan, Watt. 75-1303) Would change certain titles on Superintendent of Public Instruction's staff including a new title of Assistant Superintendent for Vocational Education. In House Education Committee.

HB 587 (Knudsen, Jordan, Shively) Would appropriate money for a Supervisor of Health and Physical Education in the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office as provided in Section 75-2009. In House Appropriations Committee.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

SB 174 (Cotton, Mathers, Rugg, Thiessen) Would ask voter approval of constitutional amendment to allow a county superintendent to serve in more than one county. Passed Senate; in House Constitution, Elections and Federal Relations Committee.

SB 182 (Rostad and many others. 25-605) Would provide salary increases ranging from \$2,360 to \$3,040 per annum for all county officials including the county superintendent. In Senate Local Government Committee.

HB 253 (Kendall, Campbell, Feda, Bardanouve, Spahr, Watt, Himsl. 25-605) Would provide \$800 per year increase of county superintendents' salaries. In House Townships and Counties Committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

SB 174 See County Superintendent.

HB 151 (Patrick, Ulmer) Would ask voter approval of a constitutional amendment permitting the investment of the state public school fund in accordance with the "prudent man rule" and deleting provision for investment in school district bonds. Passed House; in Senate Constitution Elections and Federal Relations Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

SB 211 (Mitchell, Groff, Cotton, Folsom, Rugg. 81-103) Would provide for management of state-owned lands by State Board of Land Commissioners on "multiple-use concept." Passed Senate; in the House Livestock and Ranges Committee.

HB 318 (Christiansen, Lucas, Watt, Rygg, Wayrynen. A new act) Would reenact the driver education statutes and correct the constitutional deficiencies recently held by the Montana Supreme Court. In House Highways Committee.

HB 373 (Lundgren, Stratton, Kolstad, Aubert. 19-107) Would change day of observance of certain holidays. Passed House; in Senate State Administration Committee.

HB 415 (Murphy, Harrison, Lucas, Ulmer, Casey, Rygg, Lundgren, B. Williams, Marks, Mather. A new act) Would provide that a prayer may be used to open the school day. In House Committee of the Whole.

HB 495 (Christiansen, Bardanouve, Schoonover, Aubert, Casey, East, Fleming. 75-506.1) Would increase from 48 to 96 the number of Indian students who may attend Montana University System without payment of fees. In House Committee of the Whole.

SJR 4 (Brownfield, James) Requests the Legislative Council to study and recodify Montana School Laws and appropriates \$18,000 for this purpose. Passed House and Senate; signed by Governor.